



Sunday 14th March

Connecting church family within the Market Drayton Circuit; Market Drayton, Ashley and Hinstock, during the restrictions of Covid-19

Market Drayton Methodist Circuit

Newsletter

Notices

CHURCHES RE-OPENING

Ashley Methodist Church will restart services in church on Easter Sunday (4th April) and on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month for April & May. Church will also be open for private prayer on Thursdays, 11am-12pm and on Good Friday 12–1pm. Please book on AMC website for the service on Easter Sunday (ashleymethodist.co.uk). Booking not necessary for regular services.

MDMC services start on Palm Sunday (28th March) and every Sunday after that. Everyone is very welcome—although booking will again be required online or by phone to ensure adequate social distanced seating! Booking is now open on the MDMC website mdmc.org.uk/calendar

MDMC GIFT DAY

The total received so far for our Gift Day Offering is £8,124. Thank you again to all who have given so generously and sacrificially. As regards the response to the need for people to increase their monthly giving, this will be assessed and reported upon over the coming months. Please continue to pray for God's financial provision as we seek to continue to sow into and grow our mission and ministry.

ART EXHIBITION

Christ Church, Little Drayton are creating an ART EXHIBITION with the theme of 'HOPE' during Easter week, and need your help! Paintings, drawings, small models and photos are all welcome, of whatever age! For more details, contact Alison Derwent (654697) or lyndagreen137@gmail.com

CAP VACANCIES

Christians against Poverty Market Drayton Volunteer vacancies

Fresh Start Coach Each Fresh Start course runs for 8 weeks (2 hrs/week) and aims to support people with life controlling habits/addictions such as: alcohol and drug dependencies, substance misuse, smoking, eating disorders, internet addictions etc. Minimum of 2/3 courses per year.

Debt Coach The Debt Centre requires an additional volunteer Debt Coach to support the existing team. Two days a week supporting and assisting Clients with their 'journey out of debt'.

Full training given for both roles.

With both posts, there is a requirement that the person must be a practicing Christian who is willing to share their faith with others.

Contact Gill Carley (CAP Debt Centre Manager) on : 07855460655 or by email: gillcarley@capuk.org

For further background on CAP, please visit the website: capuk.org

THINKING CAPS ON—AMC QUIZ

Download a copy of the AMC Easter Quiz from www.ashleymethodist.co.uk or phone 01630 673952 for a paper copy. The winner will receive a gift token. Further information & rules are on the quiz sheet. All proceeds to our AV & New Organ Fund. Invite your friends to take part too. Answers published 8th April.

MD CIRCUIT WORSHIP

ONLINE

First streaming at 10.30am on Sundays, then always available

- ⇒ mdmc.org.uk
- ⇒ ashleymethodist.co.uk
- ⇒ YouTube – search MDMC

Weekly Zoom Prayer Thursdays, 7.30-8pm

Meeting ID: 771 3865 0306
Passcode: i10m9R

IN CHURCH

MDMC & Ashley MC are both paused during current Lockdown

OTHER ONLINE WORSHIP

Truro Methodist Church

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2XL8XC12GnrsFtWUJlbdww>

Wesley's Chapel London

Live Streams at 11am Sundays
www.youtube.com/channel/UCUAUqhmhevz5sqhh72LIMxA

PHONE WORSHIP

0808 2812514
Free Methodist church Dial-a-prayer

0808 281 2478
Free Methodist Church Dial-the-news
(both updated on a Thursday)



If you would like to contribute to this weekly Newsletter, please send items by [Wednesdays](mailto:Wednesdays@mdmc.org.uk) to Al Savill
Email: notices@mdmc.org.uk. Tel: 07966295413. Please send testimonies, prayers, news, notices, activities etc.

Turn towards the Light

Numbers 21: 4-9

John 3: 14-21

A Prayer to Start

Holy God, we praise you for the faithfulness of your people down the ages. We worship and adore you as creator of this wonderful earth, and of us made in your image. We praise you that you are a Giving God. For our family and friends, God we thank you. For the signs of Spring all around us, God we thank you. For the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God we thank you.

Forgiving God, we bring you our confessions now.

We are sorry God for the times when we have failed you and ourselves. *(in a moment of quiet offer your confession to God)*

We know God you are quick to forgive. As Jesus said to many he met, 'Your sins are forgiven', it is on this promise that we too rely. We pray in Jesus' name, Amen.



How many times through this pandemic you have been unhappy with things and complained out loud or inwardly to yourself? Perhaps you haven't agreed with Government decisions, perhaps you have been angry at the people who seemed to

mindlessly flout the rules put in place to keep us all safe, perhaps you've complained when you were unable to attend church, or if you were, you were unable to sing; there are many reasons of late why we are likely to have moaned.

And this is how it was with the Israelites as they travelled slowly towards the promised land. They took their frustration out not only on their leader Moses, but also on God. They had forgotten the miracles God had performed for them, their faith was waning, and they refused to obey God's law (see Psalm 78). We see too that when the Israelites complained things only got worse. They improved at once though when the people recognised that they had sinned against God through their attitude and actions. When the bronze snake was hung on a pole the Israelites didn't anticipate the fuller meaning that Jesus would bring to this experience.

In the Gospel reading Jesus explains that just as the Israelites of old were healed of the sickness caused by the snake bites by turning their gaze towards the snake on the pole, we today can be healed from the sin that pervades our lives by turning our gaze towards Jesus' death on the cross.

You see it was not the bronze snake that healed the Israelites, it was their renewed belief in God's healing power, in God's compassion for them, in God's love for those created in God's image and called beloved.

Today, God's healing power, compassion and love exists for each one of us too; it is there for the taking but like the Israelites we too need to recognise the times we stray away from the path of light that guides us and turn back wholeheartedly towards God. Amen.

Reflection

Read the words of the Hymn above

If you are reading this online, why not listen to this great version on YouTube here.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F2tKVqZZil4>

TURN YOUR EYES UPON JESUS

Look full in His wonderful face
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of His glory and grace

Turn your eyes to the hillside
Where justice and mercy embraced
There the Son of God gave His life for us
And our measureless debt was erased

*Jesus, to You we lift our eyes
Jesus, our glory and our prize
We adore You, behold You,
our Saviour ever true
Oh Jesus, we turn our eyes to You*

Turn your eyes to the morning
And see Christ the Lion awake
What a glorious dawn, fear of death is gone
For we carry His life in our veins

Turn your eyes to the heavens
Our King will return for His own
Every knee will bow, every tongue will shout,
'All glory to Jesus alone!'

Original words (V1) by Helen H. Lemmel.
Add. words (V2-4 & C) by Romanacce, Stiff, Trout, and Winebarger

Prayer

Lord Who is Light, Life and Love,
Grant us the capacity to see You, even in the darkness.
Re-assure us that You are our Life, even when we face death.
Hold us in Your Love, even when we feel alone or afraid.
Remind us that the darkness is not dark to You.
Root us in the life that flows from relationship with You.
Mark us with Love that we might share You with the world.
We hold before You those who cannot see a way out.
We bring before You those who are gripped by grief.
We lift to You those who are overwhelmed by uncertainty.
Lord Who is Light, Life and Love,
Give us the gifts of faith and hope, but above all, Love. Amen

Malcom Duncan #niteblessings